



February 28, 2020

The Honorable Muriel Bowser
Mayor
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mayor Bowser:

The members of the DC State Board of Education appreciate your administration's efforts to ensure the public has up-to-date information about the spread of COVID-19 or Coronavirus. It appears likely that Coronavirus will become pandemic and may disrupt our education system for the 2019-2020 school year. Once that happens, there will be a shift in the actions of governments and health care providers from prevention of the spread of Coronavirus to the treatment of increasing numbers of infected citizens.

In relation to the educational priorities of DC students, we ask that you consider the following questions as your administration prepares for this shift in focus:

1. How will we ensure accessibility to distance or online learning for quarantined students or students whose schools are closed? These might include partnerships between DC Public Schools and public charter schools that may have more experience in successful distance learning programs.
2. How can we ensure a continuity of education for students without internet access?
3. Will emergency regulations be needed to waive seat-time requirements for attendance purposes or graduation requirements? If so, who is leading the drafting of these regulations?
4. What steps can students and faculty take now to protect their health and how can the District better disseminate information through school communities?
5. What impacts to the education of students can be mitigated if schools are needed to serve as triage or treatment facilities for patients?
6. What provisions are being considered for meals for low-income students in the event of virus-related school closures?





7. What will the ramifications for faculty or other government employees (i.e. workforce protections) be if they prioritize their personal health over work? Do we have a cadre of trained replacements or temporary staff identified?

In addition, who will be the point person for coordination of the District's efforts related to the Coronavirus?

Thank you for considering these important questions as we work together to ensure the long-term health of our city.

Sincerely,

The D.C. State Board of Education

Ashley C. MacLeay, At-Large Representative
Emily Gasoi, Ward 1 Representative
Jack Jacobson, Ward 2 Representative
Ruth Wattenberg, Ward 3 Representative
Frazier O'Leary, Ward 4 Representative
Zachary Parker, Ward 5 Representative
Jessica Sutter, Ward 6 Representative
Karen Williams, Ward 7 Representative
Markus Batchelor, Ward 8 Representative
Alex O'Sullivan, Student Representative
Dayja Burton, Student Representative

CC: Paul Kihn, Deputy Mayor for Education
Wayne Turnage, Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services

